GOVERNMENT OF ANDHRA PRADESH
ABSTRACT

Public Servants – Forest Department – Allegation of corruption against Sri Potala Yedukondalu, Forest Range Officer, Salur Range, Vizianagaram District – Trapped on 02-07-2015 – Sanction of Prosecution under the Prevention of Corruption Act - Orders – Issued.

ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS, SCIENCES AND TECHNOLOGY(SEC.IV) DEPARTMENT

G.O.MS.No. 95 **Dated: 13-12-2017**

ORDER:

1. Whereas Sri Potala Yedukondalu, Forest Range Officer, Salur Range, Vizianagaram District worked as such from 18.11.2014 to 02.07.2015. By virtue of the post held by him, he falls within the category of public servant as defined under section 2 (c) of the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988 (Central Act 49 of 1988).

2. And whereas the summary of allegations against Sri Potala Yedukondalu states that Sri Raghavaraju Adivishnu S/o Venkateswara Rao R/o Vegararam(v), Jangareddygudem, W.G. District is doing timber business for the last 15 years and eking out his livelihood by running a timber depot at Jangareddygudem. Sri Raghavaraju Adivishnu purchased 100 teak trees at Markandaputtu of Makkuva Mandal and 400 teak trees at Thupakivalasa and Antivilasa Villages of Salur Mandal from the concerned farmers and applied to FRO, Salur in the first week of May for grant of permission to cut those trees. Sri Potala Yedukondalu, FRO, Salur demanded an amount of Rs.10,000/- as bribe to process his application. Even though Sri Adivishnu was not interested to pay the bribe in the interest of his business he paid the bribe of Rs.10,000/-. At that time only, the FRO informed Sri Raghavaraju Adivishnu that some more money was required to be paid at the time of issuing transport permit. After that, Sri Raghavaraju Adivishnu received the order to cut the trees. Then, he had cut all the trees purchased by him. As Sri Raghavaraju Adivishnu intended to shift the teak logs cut at Markandaputtu Village limits to his timber depot at Jangareddygudem, Sri Raghavaraju Adivishnu applied for transport permit at Forest Range Office, Salur. In this regard, Sri Raghavaraju Adivishnu came to Vizianagaram to meet the FRO as he learnt from his clerk Tirupathi that the FRO was not present in the Range Office at Salur. He contacted the FRO over phone for processing his transport permit file. Then the FRO asked him to bring the security deposit receipt from the post office. The FRO said that the file would be processed on paying the bribe of Rs.5,000/- per lorry i.e., total Rs.15,000/- to him. Then Sri Raghavaraju Adivishnu asked the FRO when he was following the procedure, why should he pay bribe. Then the FRO said that only if the bribe was paid, the file would be processed but otherwise it would be kept pending. As he had no other option, he agreed to pay the bribe amount. Then the FRO informed Sri Raghavaraju Adivishnu to bring the bribe amount of Rs.15,000/- to the Office Salur on 02.07.2015. As Sri Raghavaraju Adivishnu was unwilling to pay the bribe amount to the FRO Sri Pothala Yedukondalu, he presented a report to DSP, ACB, Vizianagaram with a request to take necessary action against the FRO;

3. And whereas after receipt of the complaint and after due verification of the genuineness of the complaint and reputation of Sri Potala Yedukondalu, Forest Range Officer, Salur Range, Vizianagaram District a case in Cr.No.06/RCT-ACB/VZM/2015 under section 7 of the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988 was registered on 02.07.2015 at 10:00 hours and arrangements were made for laying a trap;

4. And whereas, during the course of trap on 02.07.2015 Sri Potala Yedukondalu was trapped along with Sri Nageswara Rao in his chamber as he further demanded and accepted an amount of Rs.15,000/- as bribe through Sri Nageswara Rao from Sri Raghavaraju Adivishnu. During the post trap proceedings, the tainted currency was recovered from the possession of Sri Nageswara Rao in the presence of Sri Potala Yedukondalu. The serial numbers and denominations of the said seized amount were found to have tallied with the serial numbers and denominations of the currency notes handed over by Sri Raghavaraju Adivishnu during pre-trap proceedings. Both the hands and the inner linings of left side shirt pocket of Sri Nerella Sairama Nageswara Rao yielded positive result when subjected to chemical test. During the course of investigation, the DSP, ACB, seized the tainted currency, shirt of Sri Nageswara Rao, resultant solutions and connected records. He also examined the witnesses, collected relevant documents and prepared the rough sketch of the scene of offence. The DSP asked AO-1 about the file relating to the complainant and he produced a file consisting of 30 sheets and postal Savings Bank passbook.

5. And whereas, the above said acts of Sri Potala Yedukondalu, Forest Range Officer, Salur Range, Vizianagaram District constitute offences punishable under sections 7 and 13(2) read with 13(1)(d) of the Prevention of Corruption Act,1988.

6. And whereas, the Government of Andhra Pradesh, being the competent authority to remove Sri Potala Yedukondalu, Forest Range Officer, Salur Range, Vizianagaram District from Government service and after fully and carefully examining the material i.e., FIR, Pre & Post trap proceedings, statements of witnesses, relevant records, explanation of Sri Potala Yedukondalu, final report of the DG, ACB etc. placed before them, in respect of the said allegations and having regard to the circumstances of the case, considered that Sri Potala Yedukondalu, Forest Range Officer, Salur Range, Vizianagaram District should be prosecuted in a competent Court of law for the above said offences.

7. Now, therefore, in exercise of the powers conferred under clause (b) of sub section (1) of section 19 of the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988, the Government of Andhra Pradesh hereby accord sanction for prosecution of Sri Potala Yedukondalu, Forest Range officer, Salur Range, Vizianagaram District for the above said offences under sections 7 and sub section (2) of section 13 read with clause (d) of sub section (1) of section 13 of the Prevention of Corruption Act,1988 and for any other cognate offences punishable under any other provisions of law for the time being in force in respect of the aforesaid acts and for taking cognizance of the said offences by the Court of competent jurisdiction.

(BY ORDER AND IN THE NAME OF THE GOVERNOR OF ANDHRA PRADESH)

G. ANANTHA RAMU
PRINCIPAL SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT

To
The Director General,
Anti-Corruption Bureau,
A.P., Vijayawada.
Copy to:
Law(G) Department.